

# Most Catholick Majesty's ANSWER TO THE POPE's Proposals

For a general P E A C E throughout *Europe*.

*Great Britain - King - William 3*

Licensed, March 14th. 1692. J. F.

*Most Holy Father in Jesus Christ,*

**T**HE Archbishop of Nazianze, your Holiness's Nuncio, hath imparted to us the Memorial by which your Holiness, moved with a pious and holy Zeal, exhorts us to a General Peace; But since it is the secure Establishment of that very Peace which the Confederate Princes have proposed to themselves by their Uniting together, and the only design which they had in beginning the War, it is necessary to Declare, That so long as the Power of France shall continue without being Reduc'd within the just bounds of Reason, it is impossible to obtain a firm and lasting Peace, or that the Princes of Europe can enjoy a settled Tranquility: What Terms more Strong, or what Oaths more Solemn can be made use of to Confirm the Peace, than those which were Employed in the Pyrenean Treaty? What greater Assurances could be given than the Guaranty which the Princes had given them at Aix la Chappelle? And what Advantage can at this Day be offered to France to bound and stop its Ambition, when the Provinces yeilded to that Crown, by the Peace of Nimeguen, have not been sufficient to satisfy the greedy Desires it hath always had of Inslaving his Neighbours? If all these Treaties were not able to subsist, the King of France having violated all of them, what other Treaty can at present be invented, that may be durable, and not be subject to Contradictions, and other Inconveniencies. Since the Treaty of Nimeguen, it was believed another means was found out, of establishing the publick Repose, namely, the Truce of 20 Years, bought with the Expence of so many unjust Usurpations which the K. of France had been the Author of, which ought to have been peaceably removed, and not it was intended for. But France has obser-



ved this *Truce* no better than the *Peace*; for scarce 4 years of the 20 were elapsed, but seeing the *Emperour* extending his *Conquests* in *Hungary*, and at the same time the *Borders* of the *Church*, he broke the said *Truce*, without declaring a *War*, took *Philipsburgh*, assaulted the *Empire*, and committed unheard of *Cruelties* and *Outrages* in the *Palatinate*, sufficiently known to every one, after he had excited a *Rebellion* in *Hungary*, as well against the *Catholick Religion* as against him who is the *Head* thereof; assisted *Teckely*, called in the *Turk* to his *Assistance*, giving him entrance into *Austria*, and made him depopulate the same with *Fire* and *Sword*, and to carry away a good part of its *Inhabitants* into *Slavery*. From whence ensu'd the *Emperors* being forced to withdraw from *Vienna*, and the *Siege* of that *City*, in whose preservation depended the *Safety* of the *Empire*, and of all *Christendom*. But whereas this *Misfortune* of *Christendom* might have been sufficient to have moved *Compassion* in the most hard hearted and barbarous *Natures*, instead thereof, we see at this *Day* the said *King* endeavouring to increase these *Calamities*, and soliciting the *Turk*, by his *Ministers*, to continue them; and, which is yet more impiously horrid, sends him assistance not only of *Soldiers*, but *Engineers*, and *Officers*, to instruct those *Infidels* more advantageously in that *Art of War* which he himself makes use of, in employing his artificial *Fires*, *Bombs* and *Carcasses*, rather for the *Ruin* and *Destruction* of *Humane-kind*, than for any profit or advantage to be reaped thereby, witness *Genoa*, *Barcelona*, and *Alicant*, whose *Ruines* do sufficiently testify, That his *Rage* spares neither *Churches* nor *Cloisters*, nor makes any difference in the sufferings of those who are consecrated to the service of *God*, than of other innocent souls. The *War* which he hath prosecuted in *Piedmont*, for no other Reason, but because the *Duke of Savoy* would not submit his *Neck* to the *Yoke* of *Bondage*, ought not to seem strange, if it be considered, how many *Affronts* he has offered to *Innocent* the 11th, whose excellent *Vertues* have made his *Memory* Blessed, setting the *Clergy* of his *Dominions*, and his *Parliament*, in opposition to his *Authority*. All these notorious, and uncontrollable *Truths*, do sufficiently manifest, most *Holy Father*, that there can be no better *Methods* taken to procure an assured *Peace*, than by the continuing of a *Vigorous War*, which we esteem necessary, as well for the publick good, as for the *Honour* of your *Holiness*, the *Authority* of the *Holy See*, and the *Propagation* of the *Faith*. We hope your *Holiness*, after you have made due *Reflections* upon the aforementioned *Reasons*, will continue the *Assistances* you have begun to afford the *Emperor*, for the *Defence* of *Christendom* against the *Turks*, and that you will Approve of the *Resolution* we have taken to adhere firmly to the *Treaties* and *Alliances* wherein we are engaged, and that you will not refuse us your *Holy Benediction*. Madrid, &c.